



Press Release

Texas Agricultural Statistics Service

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On: TEXAS HONEY PRODUCTION
UP 23 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

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AUSTIN . . . Texas beekeepers produced 9.38 million pounds of honey during 2003, up 23 percent from 2002.

According to the annual report released by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, the total value of Texas honey production was \$13.32 million, up 53 percent from the previous year. Producers averaged \$1.42 per pound of honey, up 28 cents from the \$1.14 per pound in 2002.

The total number of bee colonies producing honey in Texas, at 140 thousand, was up 23 percent from a year ago; production per colony averaged 67 pounds, the same as last year.

Nationally, honey production totaled 181.1 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. During 2003 there were 2.59 million colonies producing honey, up 1 percent from 2002. Production per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, compared with 66.7 pounds a year ago.

Total value of United States honey production was \$255.8 million, an increase of 12 percent from 2002. The average value was \$1.40 per pound.

California was the leading honey producing state in 2003 with 32 million pounds. North Dakota came in second with 30 million pounds followed by Florida with 15 million pounds and South Dakota with 14 million pounds. Texas ranked seventh in honey production.